

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EA-07 ISO-00 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /103 W

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R 141427Z JUL 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8298

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2878

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, RQ, NO

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO AND COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24): NORWEGIAN

AND AUSTRALIAN VIEWS

REF: (A) GENEVA 04915 (NOTAL) (B) USUN 2467 (NOTAL)

1. ON JULY 9, MISSION OFFICER DISCUSSED STATE OF PLAY OF PUERTO RICO AND THE C 24 WITH NORWEGIAN DEPUTY PERMREP VRAALSEN. MISSION OFFICER THANKED VRAALSEN FOR HIS FRANKNESS AND COOPERATION (REFS A AND B), INFORMED HIM OF OUR DECISION NOT TO PROCEED WITH THE NORWEGIAN/AUSTRALIAN STRATEGY AND OF OUR VIEW THAT THE BEST COURSE TO FOLLOW IS TO SEEK POSTPONEMENT OF ANY RESOLUTION ON PR IN THE C 24 AND SOLICITED HIS ASSISTANCE.

2. WHILE VRAALSEN THOUGHT OUR VOTE ESTIMATE ON POSTPONEMENT (12-9-1-1 (NOT PARTICIPATING)) IS OPTIMISTIC, HE AGREED THAT POSTPONEMENT IS WORTH A TRY AND AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO HELP. VRAALSEN HAS LEFT FOR THREE WEEKS LEAVE AND WILL RETURN TO NEW YORK IN EARLY AUGUST. HE AGREED TO MEET WITH US, THEN TO DECIDE HOW TO PROCEED.

2. ON JULY 12, AMB SHERER AND MISSION OFFICER MET WITH
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AUSTRALIAN MISSION OFFICERS REID AND FORRESTER. REID SAID

HE NOW EXPECTS PUERTO RICO TO COME UP ON AUGUST 24, THAT C 24 CHAIRMAN SALIM WILL BE AWAY (AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED) AND THAT HE BELIEVES NORWEGIAN DEPUTY PERM REP VRAALSEN HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY SALIM TO CHAIR THE C 24 IN SALIM'S ABSENCE. (VRAALSEN DID NOT MENTION THIS IN OUR CONVERSATION.)

3. SHERER INFORMED REID AND FORRESTER THAT WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD PROCEED WITH THE AUSTRALIAN/NORWEGIAN STRATEGY BECAUSE OF VRAALSEN'S PESSIMISTIC ASSESSMENT, BASED ON HIS DISCUSSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, THAT IT CANNOT SUCCEED AND BECAUSE OF THE DAMAGE WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM DEFEAT OF SUCH A RESOLUTION.

4. REID AGREED THAT POSTPONEMENT WAS WORTH A TRY, WOULD NOT DAMAGE AND MIGHT IMPROVE OUR CHANCES OF DEFEATING A RESOLUTION ON PR IF IT FAILED. HE AGREED WITH OUR PRESENT VOTE ESTIMATE (12-9-1-1 (NON-PARTICIPATING)). WHILE NOT RULING OUR AUSTRALIS'S MAKING THE MOTION TO POSTPONE, HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE ADVANTAGEOUS IF NORWAY COULD PROPOSE POSTPONEMENT IN LIGHT OF VRAALSEN'S POSITION AS VICE CHAIRMAN (AUSTRALIA WAS A VICE CHAIRMAN LAST YEAR.) REID EMPHASIZED THAT SALIM'S ATTITUDE WILL BE CRUCIAL AND REITERATED THAT SALIM APPEARS TO WISH TO AVOID ANY DIVISIVE CONFRONTATION IN WHAT MAY BE HIS LAST SESSION IN THE C 24.

5. REID ALSO SAID THAT POSTPONEMENT IS NOT A STRATEGY THAT WILL WORK YEAR AFTER YEAR, AND THAT THIS YEAR IT SHOULD NOT BE SPRUNG AS AN ELEVENTH HOUR SURPRISE LIKE LAST YEAR, BUT RATHER PROPOSED AT AN EARLY STAGE OF THE C 24'S CONSIDERATION OF PR. HE SUGGESTED SEEKING SALIM'S VIEWS ON HAVING THE PROPOSAL COME FROM THE BUREAU ITSELF (TANZANIA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, NORWAY, BULGARIA, AND SYRIA) AND WE AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE AUSTRALIANS TO SOUND HIM OUT ON THE IDEA.

6. GOV SCRANTON WILL ALSO WEEK TO SPEAK WITH SALIM TO SEE IF HIS HELP CAN BE ENLISTED IN ACHIEVING POSTPONEMENT.
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